

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are pending and rejected.

The applicants' attorney amends claim 14 and respectfully asserts that claim 14, as amended, is in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below. The applicants' attorney also respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection of claims 1 – 13 and 15 – 21, and respectfully asserts that claims 1 – 13 and 15 – 21 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. David Mason (408-447-4046) or Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of these claims.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The applicants' attorney respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection of claim 1 because U.S. Patent 6,272,104 issued to Liao *et al.* (Liao) fails to disclose a coupling element that couples a post to the side of a storage compartment.

The applicants' claim 1 recites a coupling element operable to couple the body of a post to the side of a storage compartment.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 4 and discussed in paragraphs 11 and 20 – 23 of the specification, a storage compartment 30 includes a post 32 (FIG. 2) having a body 38 (FIG. 2) that can hold one or more storage media, and a coupling element 54 (FIG. 4) that couples the post 32 to the bottom 40 (FIGS. 2 and 4) of the storage compartment 30. The body 38 includes a first component 48 (FIG. 4), which is shown coupled to the bottom 40 by the coupling element 54, and a second component 50 (FIG. 4), which is shown uncoupled from the bottom 40.

In contrast, Liao fails to disclose a coupling element that couples a post to the side of a storage compartment. Liao discloses a module 36 (FIGS. 2 and 3) to read data from and write data to storage media D (FIGS. 6a – 6c), such as an optical disk. The module 36 includes a rotating platter 44 (FIGS. 4 and 6a – 7c), which functions as a movable drive base (*Col. 4 lines 43 – 45*), a media retention device 42 (FIG. 4)

that secures the storage media to the rotating platter 44, and a bushing 45 disposed between the platter 44 and device 42 (See FIGS. 6a – 6e). During operation of the module 36, the rotating platter 44 spins the disk D and the media retention device 42. The rotating platter 44 and bushing 45 do not couple and are not used to couple the media retention device 42 to a side of the module 36. Therefore, unlike the applicants' claimed post 32, Liao's media retention device 42 does not include a coupling element that couples the device 42 to the side of the module 36.

Claims 2 – 10 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 11 – 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 11 is patentable over Liao for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Liao.

Claims 12 and 13 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 11.

Rejection of Claims 14 – 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 14, as amended, is patentable over Liao for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Liao.

Claims 15 – 20 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 14.

Rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 21 is patentable over Liao for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Liao.

Conclusion

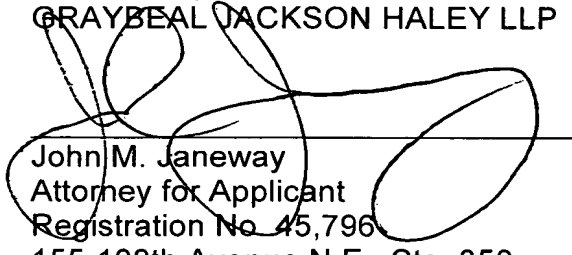
The applicants' attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection against claims 1 – 21 and issue an allowance for these claims.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an

Office Action, the examiner call Mr. David Mason (408-447-4046) or Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of these claims.

DATED this 19th day of January 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP



John M. Janeway
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 45,796
155-108th Avenue N.E., Ste. 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5973
(425) 455-5575